

TEXAS FIJI

The Longhorn Fiji—The University of Texas at Austin
Established 1883

Spring 2019



WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAPTER ADVISOR

There's a Place for You in the Chapter

Rev. Stephen Kinney, Ph.D. PC '74 became the new head of the Board of Chapter Advisors (BCA) in January 2019. Building upon the good work from previous heads, **Robert Canon PC '72**, **Tom Shirley PC '78**, and **Marshall Merritt PC '79**, and working with the Phi Gamma Section Chief **Kirk Walden PC '68**, Stephen seeks to maintain momentum for creating positive pledge class development, recruiting more alumni mentors, deepening the relationship with UT's Dean of Students, promoting more service learning projects in the greater Austin community, diversifying the Chapter profile, and helping undergraduates build excellence in all areas of Chapter life.

Besides spending time getting to know undergraduates more personally, Stephen hopes to strengthen the BCA relationships with the

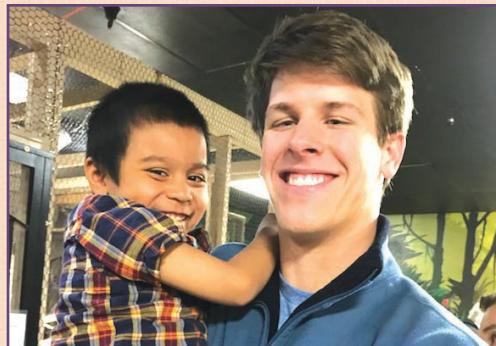
Chapter by assigning BCA counterparts for each of the following active Chapter roles: Chapter administration, finances, risk management, graduate relations, housing, pledge education, public relations, ritual, recruitment, scholarship, and service. Also, the search is on to recruit a Purple Legionnaire who can partner with the Chapter and the BCA in helping Tau Deuteron fully realize its values of friendship, knowledge, and the glory of a life well lived.

The alumni who are helping to constitute the BCA include **Mark Winter PC '79**, **Bryan Campbell PC '78**, **Bob Butchofsky PC '80**, **Ardon Moore PC '77**, **Dewitt Waltmon PC '76**, **Kevin Snodgrass PC '78**, **Gene Shepherd PC '78**, Tom Shirley, Robert Canon, and Marshall Merritt.

Please contact Brother Kinney if you'd like to enter the fray and become part of this effort!



Stephen is an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Texas and currently serves as the director of The Front Porch Project, which is a nonprofit mission of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Austin. Please visit www.frontporchaustin.org to learn more about The Front Porch Project. After serving as youth minister, chaplain, and rector in schools and parishes in Houston, New York City, and Fredericksburg, he and his family moved to Austin, where he earned a Ph.D. in educational psychology at UT. Stephen is the immediate past president of Interfaith Action Central Texas (IACT). He is married to Gwen, a licensed therapist, and father of Matthew, Kathleen, and Tyler.



Left: Matthew Leggett PC '17 spends the day with Be+Hero, Ronnie, at the Austin Aquarium, seeing all sorts of animals and ending the day playing with lemurs! **Middle:** Gus Walker PC '18 making a donation during Fiji's annual blood drive. **Right:** Joey Severt PC '17 and Grant Boxwell PC '18 at Waller Creek. Members from each pledge class helped pick up trash during the April weekend.

MAKING A NAME FOR TEXAS FIJI

Undergraduates Extend a Hand

The Tau Deuteron Chapter is proud of its growing emphasis on philanthropy and service, along with the reshaping process. Amongst this growing effort, for the first time ever, the Chapter has participated in the Be+ Hero program. As part of the program, the Chapter had the opportunity to individually sponsor Ronnie, an Austin child who has been battling leukemia. While the Chapter has fundraised for Be+ for several years, raising \$27,000 this school year, this was our first time to forge a real and meaningful connection with a family on the receiving end of the program. Philanthropy Chairman **Matthew Leggett PC '17** had the opportunity to spend time with Ronnie playing at the park, visiting the Austin Aquarium, and even cheering on the Horns to victory at a football game. These experiences have been priceless, and the Chapter looks to continue participating in this program for years to come.

More recently, Texas Fiji raised \$4,500 during the annual Roundup weekend to be donated toward Alzheimer's Texas, an organization that not only funds important research but also offers powerful support to those who suffer from Alzheimer's.

Texas Fiji tested new waters and hosted a Chapter-wide blood drive. Members enjoyed participating in the blood drive so much that the Chapter coordinated another one this spring semester. In tune with the reshaping of philanthropy and service within Texas Fiji, the Chapter looks to make a fall and spring blood drive a permanent staple in its annual schedule. Texas Fiji also recognized the importance of not only impacting their city but also our immediate community. On April 14, a group of active members spent their Sunday picking up trash littering Waller Creek, the stream that runs just

west of the stadium. Though the work was not glamourous, the members found it rewarding to make a difference with their own hands.

Texas Fiji has consistently found success in its fundraising and philanthropic giving. Going forward, however, the Chapter seeks to emulate more of a hands-on, memorable experience in our community. Instead of just raising a certain amount, the Tau Deuteron Chapter strives to be more than another name on campus and seeks to become recognizable faces within the community known for our service.

GTBO,
Ben Fortson PC '16
Chapter President
bfortson4@gmail.com
(817) 296-5472

ALUMNI MENTOR UNDERGRADUATE CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Before the Pig Dinner last April, there was a convergence of six stellar alumni and around 40 actives who gathered from 2 to 5 p.m. to have a career brainstorm. The idea was to give undergraduates encouragement as they get launched into the wider world and to develop an ongoing mentoring network between alumni and undergraduates. Moving forward, these gatherings will be hosted quarterly. There was meaningful conversation and a Q&A section after each presentation.

Alumni participants included:

- **Todd Maclin PC '74**, former CEO of J.P. Morgan Chase Commercial Bank.
- **Dr. Chuck Fraser PC '76**, chief of pediatric and congenital cardiothoracic surgery at Dell Children's Medical Center. Chuck formerly served at Texas Children's

Hospital in Houston as senior surgeon of its congenital heart surgery program.

- **David Roche, Sewanee** co-founder of Endeavor Real Estate Group, who developed The Domain.
- **Gene Shepherd PC '78**, founder and chief executive officer of ATX Energy Partners, formerly CFO of Brigham Exploration.
- **Mark Winter PC '79**, CFO of DHI Mortgage/DR Horton.
- **Bryan Campbell PC '78**, partner with DuBois, Bryant and Campbell.

We sincerely appreciate the alumni who were able to offer this important opportunity to our undergraduate brothers. If you are interested in attending this next year, please contact **Rev. Stephen Kinney, Ph.D. PC '74** at swk.kinney@gmail.com.



Tau Deuteron undergraduates learn from alumni during our career day.

TEXAS FIJI RUSH

Alumni, Send in Your Recommendations

We had a great start to Texas Fiji Rush this year. Our Rush Captains and Rush Assistants were elected in late January. We held several different Rush events this spring, and we are looking forward to a great summer. Our first several events went very well, and the Rush Team is confident we will Rush a strong new member class for next fall. We are excited for the opportunity to meet many potential new members, and we are committed to meeting everyone that comes our way. We always appreciate any input from alumni, so please send any recommendations, comments, or questions to rush@txfiji.com.

Please make Rush contributions out to Phi Gamma Delta, and send to:
 Phi Gamma Delta at the University of Texas
 P.O. Box 4769
 Austin, TX 78765

Or donate online at texasfiji.com. Click on the Recruitment Donations button.

This year's Rush Team includes:

HEAD RUSH CHAIRMAN
Max Holsomback PC '17
Dallas, Texas
rush@txfiji.com

RUSH CABINET
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James Tyng PC '17
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Jackson Scroggie PC '18
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John Cooke PC '18
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William Wood PC '18
Dallas, Texas
willwood@utexas.edu

RUSH ADVISOR
William Griffin PC '83
wiliam.griffin@ustrust.com

Alumni News

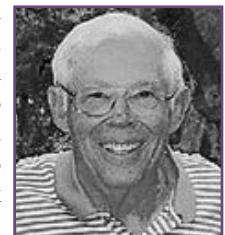
F. "Kelly" Cunningham PC '76 founded Austin Orthobiologics, a regenerative sports medicine practice for orthopedic surgery and stem cell treatment. Email: kcunning11@icloud.com

Andrew Campbell PC '12 is living in Midland, Texas, working in the oil and gas field. He is delighted to have brothers including **Graham Soto-Kean PC '12** and **Wilson Jerckovich PC '12** in Midland as well. He also finished his Instrument-rating pilot license with brother **James Unl PC '11** in the summer of 2017. Email: andrew.campbell457@gmail.com

William Deer PC '13 attended graduate school at SMU and graduated in May 2018 with a master's in business analytics. He is employed at Hitachi Consulting in Dallas, Texas, where he resides. Email: will.deer2@gmail.com

SHARING THE PASSING OF AN ESTEEMED BROTHER

Thomas A. Delano Womack PC '52 passed on to Ad Astra at the age of 84 on April 19, 2019. Delano was a legend among Fijis and stands out from all of the impressive men who have passed through the halls of Buen Retiro. Prior to his time in Phi Gamma Delta, Delano led the Austin High Maroons in back-to-back State Championship games in 1950 and 1951 and was named an All-American coming out of high school. While at UT, Delano pledged Fiji, was a Texas Cowboy, started both ways on the Longhorn football team from 1953-55, and graduated with a B.B.A. in marketing and real estate. After his years on the 40 Acres, Delano married and had a long and successful working career. He was highly involved in the Houston community, holding such positions as: president of the Touchdown Club, president of the Houston Golf Association, president of the 100 Club, and head of the Lamb Auction at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.



More importantly, Delano was a father, family man, and always found the time to support his sons in football and baseball teams. In 2014, Delano was inducted into The University of Texas Hall of Honor. Delano was a wonderful leader and mentor to many Fijis over the years and will be truly missed by the entire Fraternity.

What you're doing is more exciting than you think
We want to hear from you!

Share your story with fellow alumni. Keep an eye out for the next edition of our alumni newsletter, where you can read stories from alumni, learn about Chapter events, see photos, and more! The *Texas Fiji* newsletter is published to help our members stay in touch and to cultivate awareness and involvement with the Chapter. Alumni news submissions can be sent to our alumni relations coordinator at gbrown@penningtonco.com.



Left: Members of the 2016 pledge class in Telluride, Colo., on the annual Texas Fiji Ski Trip. **Right:** The 2017 pledge class on the annual sophomore canoe trip in Big Bend National Park. The group traveled 33 miles in three days on the Rio Grande River over spring break.

TAU DEUTERON RANKS TOP FIVE IN ACADEMICS

Snaps to Our New Chapter President

I am pleased to report that 136 years after its founding, the Tau Deuteron Chapter has enjoyed another successful academic year. Our 2019 semester began with many highlights, including an extraordinarily successful Roundup where Fiji men won both the SigEp Dodgeball Tournament and Fiji's annual Ivory P. Huff Low Hoop Tournament and raised \$4,500 for the Texas Alzheimer's Foundation. This year, we are proud to have initiated a strong and diverse pledge class of 52 new members representing five states and 10 cities within the state of Texas.

ADVENTUROUS GAMS

Tau Deuteron kicked off 2019 with a Chapter-wide ski trip to Telluride, Colorado. The honorable **Blake "Bulls" Barineau PC '16** took home the gold medal in the annual Fiji ski race, followed closely by **Jack "Stormin'" Norman PC '18** and **Nate "Pennington" Thompson PC '16**.

Our 2017 pledge class took a Spring Break Canoe excursion in Big Bend, floating for three days and 25 miles down the Rio Grande River. **James Tyng PC '17** aptly described the adventure as a wonderful trip.

LEADERS ON CAMPUS

The Tau Deuteron Chapter has continued its tradition of campus leadership. Regarding the Silver Spurs organization, brother **Scott Hurwitz '15** completed his term as vice president **Patrick Dowell '15** completed his term as handler, and **Matthew Barge '16** completed his term as rowel trainer and was elected a new Spurs handler. **Jack Durham '16** has been elected Silver

Spurs president for the 2019-20 term. Outside of Silver Spurs, **Peter Sitterle '16** was elected to the position of executive vice president of the Interfraternity Council, where he has already worked tirelessly to promote the health of Greek life as a whole.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Over the past year, the brothers of Tau Deuteron have earned high academic marks, achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.37 and ranking fourth highest out of 25 IFC chapters. This accomplishment owes a huge thanks to scholars **Sam "The Computer" Barre PC '15** and **Rhett "Red" Parker PC '18** for their contributions to our exemplary GPA.

LOOKING FORWARD

Newly elected President **Garrett Wingrove PC '17** has big plans for the Chapter. This fall, the Tau Deuteron brothers will be building a home for Austin's Community First Village, a supportive community for men and women coming out of chronic homelessness. I am confident that Garrett will continue the tradition of excellence that Tau Deuteron has enjoyed since its founding. Great things are happening here at Texas Fiji, and we hope to see you in Austin soon. Thank you to my graduate and undergraduate brothers who have made this past year truly special.

GTBO,
Ben Fortson PC '16
Chapter President
bfortson4@gmail.com
(817) 296-5472

2019 Chapter Officers

President
Garrett Wingrove PC '17
president@txfiji.com

Treasurer
Patrick McNulty PC '17

Historian
Bobby Wunderlick PC '16
bobbywunderlick@gmail.com

Recording Secretary
Dylan Overby PC '17
dylanoverby2@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary
John House PC '17
johnhouse11@gmail.com

House Managers
Adam Gerrie PC '17
adamcgerrie@gmail.com

Nix Park PC '17
parknix@gmail.com



Congratulations to Our Graduating Fiji Brothers

Omar Barakat PC '15

B.S. Biology

Cooper Barnes PC '15

B.A. History & B.S. Sports Management

Sam Barre PC '15

B.S. Mechanical Engineering

Alex Beckham PC '15

B.B.A. Accounting

Britton Burr PC '15

B.A. Economics

Richard Comeaux PC '15

B.S. Sports Management

Austin Delarosa PC '15

B.S. Corporate Communications

Patrick Dowell PC '15

B.A. Economics

Griffin Doyle PC '15

B.B.A. Business Honors Program

Charlie Eikenberg PC '15

B.B.A. Science & Technology Management

Zander Ellis PC '15

B.A. History

Michael Fletcher PC '15

B.B.A. Finance

Max Hart PC '15

B.S. Corporate Communications

Luke Hendry PC '15

Bachelor of Journalism

Jack Herbert PC '15

B.S. Advertising

Charles Highum PC '15

B.S. Petroleum Engineering

Christopher Holmes PC '15

B.B.A. Corporate Finance

Scott Hurwitz PC '15

B.A. Economics

Christopher Jackson PC '15

B.S. Public Relations

Robert Larkin PC '15

Bachelor of Journalism

John Albert Mansour PC '15

B.A. Government

Jimmy McCartney PC '15

B.B.A. Finance

Gavin McClure PC '15

B.A. Government

Greer McDowell PC '15

B.B.A. Finance

Will McMulty PC '15

B.S. Mechanical Engineering

William Morgan PC '15

B.A. Sociology

James Nakfoor PC '15

B.B.A. Business Honors Program

Travis Ola PC '15

B.S. Civil Engineering

Matthew Rasmussen PC '15

B.S. General Geology

Phillip Renaud PC '15

B.A. Economics

Scott Schulte PC '15

B.S. Petroleum Engineering

Austin Shirley PC '15

B.S. Petroleum Engineering

Hayden Sieling PC '15

B.B.A. Finance

Jackson Sowell PC '15

B.A. International Relations & Global Studies

Marshall Thurmond PC '15

B.A. Urban Studies

Cameron West PC '15

B.B.A. Finance

THE GARY WHITWORTH '68 MEMORY LIVES ON

The Gary Whitworth Award has been a blessing to our Chapter for 43 years. This award began to honor **Gary Whitworth PC '68**, who tragically passed away in a plane crash while on his way to visit one of his pledge brothers.

To honor his memory, Flip Whitworth, Gary's older brother, and **Peter Pincoffs PC '68**, Gary's pledge brother, established a scholarship for an exemplary Fiji going on to attend graduate school. Flip was in law school at UT and Peter was still an undergraduate at UT when they started this award. Since 1975, 43 Fiji men have been awarded more than \$50,000! These brothers understood that Fiji is Not for College Days Alone!

Gary Whitworth PC '68 was an Austin High graduate and attending law school at the time of his death. He loved life and

embodied the qualities of our Chapter champions. He was loved by all, a hard worker, a great athlete, and respected by his pledge class and peers. Above all, he loved Texas Fiji.

2018 was the last year for the award. However, Flip and Peter wanted to do something that could continue to honor Gary's name and benefit Fijis for years to come.

Accordingly, the remainder of scholarship fund was put to use by way of a complete refurbishing and enhancement of the basketball court and surrounding area including lights, a sound system, and landscaping. The active brothers love playing basketball outside on the court each and every day and have been extremely happy with the renovations.

SAVE THE DATES

Live Music on the Horizon

Tailgates are always a huge part of our football game days. Each one brings together Fiji family and friends to celebrate the upcoming Longhorns game. This coming fall, we plan to have a tailgate for each home game. This season our home games include:

Louisiana Tech – Saturday, August 31

LSU – Saturday, September 7

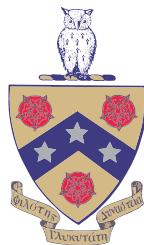
Oklahoma State – Saturday, September 21

Kansas – Saturday, October 19

Kansas State – Saturday, November 9

Texas Tech – Saturday, November 29

Additionally, this season we plan to feature live music at a few of our tailgates. Normally they start around two hours before kickoff and are either in the front yard of Buen Retiro or on the deck. Alumni are always welcome and are encouraged to come. Tailgates provide Fijis of all ages an electrifying game day atmosphere. Even more so, tailgates are a great way for alumni to come back to a place that they have all called home. We look forward to this fall and cheering on the Horns to victory.



Purple Owl House Corporation

Mark Connelly PC '70

Kent Collins PC '75

Gary McClure PC '76

Jim Rodman PC '78

Kevin Snodgrass PC '78

Evan Williams PC '78

Trey Fly PC '00

Daniel Madera PC '04

TEXAS FIJI

PHI GAMMA DELTA
BUEN RETIRO COMMITTEE
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Left: Vice President of the Silver Spurs Scott Hurwitz PC '15 with spring rowels Garrett Wingrove PC '17 and Will McLeroy PC '17. Right: Silver Spurs Handler Patrick Dowell PC '15 running out of the tunnel before a football game.



**Alumni, We Need Your Rush
Recommendations! See page 3
for information.**